

eager and we are idealistic. We are not experienced in the ways of an adult society, however, because we have not worn the mantle of responsibility, have not faced up to and made the sobering decisions that face the adult as he lives through marriage, family responsibility, home ownership, business investments, and tax burdens.

Generally speaking, the average, intelligent person needs the three year period from age eighteen to twenty-one to learn to form his own opinions after experiencing the direct effect of the laws which govern individuals when they enter, independently, the unsheltered, often iconoclastic business world. This is the period of real initiation into adulthood, the formative "polishing" years. It is during this period, while one is gaining experience with real responsibility, that a person can begin to bring some critical, unemotional, knowledgeable insight to bear on the mass of attractive, emotional "propaganda" which is widely disseminated to the electorate at campaign time.

Imagine the impact that trained propagandists would have on eighteen- to twenty-year-old voters simply because these young people lack experience in "being on their own," socially and financially. Strong political factions, special interest groups, parents, schools, and the mass media, particularly television, would exert subtle but effective pressures on a new mass of voters whose idealisms have not been tempered by practical experience. If we are troubled today by the concept of "image" and the impact of appearance and personality on the potential success of a political candidate, would we not invite more "that glitters but is not gold", more of the already-present subterfuge tactics in politics, by admitting to the polls an influx of voters who are bound, by their lack of experience, to be a relatively indiscriminate, though well-intentioned, addition to the electorate.

I do not mean to say that none of our youths, age eighteen to twenty-one, has gained the experience and maturity necessary to cast discriminate votes. Some have attained maturity beyond their years. However, rule-making in this area is necessary and it often involves a line-drawing process. Drawing the line at age twenty-one has been the established tradition in the vast majority—forty-six—of our states. The idea has not been that we do not need a more educated electorate. We certainly do need more educated voters and certainly modern youth becomes constantly more educated than previous generations;

but, rather, the idea has been that a certain premium is placed on experience which cannot be displaced by mere "book learning". Another way to say it would be to say that a man's education only begins when he has completed high school.

This type of approach is reflected in many areas of our law.

THE CHAIRMAN: Your time has expired, Delegate Finch.

DELEGATE FINCH: Mr. Chairman, you have been patient as an ox during this Convention, and I hope you allow me to finish my two sentences.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Rybczynski controls the time.

DELEGATE FINCH: Ask him if that would be satisfactory.

THE CHAIRMAN: His time is so circumscribed. You had better let it go at this time, your one sentence.

DELEGATE FINCH: And the status of minors affects purchase of alcoholic beverages, entrance into legal contracts, and entrance into marriage, to name a few areas of discretionary control. The emphasis in these areas is on judgment and so it should be, most particularly, when voting age is considered.

I urge that the voting age be maintained at twenty-one for the reasons stated, and assert my belief that this prudent action will preserve a wiser, more responsible electorate.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Koss.

DELEGATE KOSS: Mr. Chairman, I yield three minutes to Delegate Dabrowski.

DELEGATE DABROWSKI: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the Committee: I will not attempt to make any correlation between the voting age and the drinking age, the age of majority, or the fighting age. Instead I will attempt to appeal to your intelligence and your logic.

I am confident that you all realize that with higher education more readily available to our young people, we have presently the most informed society in the history of mankind. In fact, with higher education more readily available and more accessible in the future, in the next twenty to fifty years we may have a society of intellectual giants.

I am also confident you realize we live in a very complex society and that this com-